

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, February 14, 2008

6:00 p.m.

MICHAEL S. PINTO CONFERENCE ROOM

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Members Present: Michael F. Crowley, Jr., Chairman

Theresa M. Spengler, Vice-Chair

Liana F. Fenton

Member Absent: William R. Coogan

Edward K. Draper

Also Present: Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Edward Collins, Director of Facilities

Linda Savastano, Director of Technology Administration

The Budget Workshop was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chairman Michael Crowley.

Mrs. Kraeger announced that she will be recommending layoffs within

in the next few weeks. A cost analysis by cost and program, a breakdown of the numbers and how they are tracked was provided.

Budget meetings are minimized because of the limited dollars as a result of S3050.

In order to meet the S3050 challenges we must:

- o Get the message out to community and show how the shortfall has impacted our school programs**
- o Literacy and math coaches are being reduced. Programs we have worked hard to build will be reduced and/or eliminated.**
- o Mrs. Kraeger and Mrs. McLeish met with the Budget Subcommittee and Town Council liaisons to review a rough draft of the budget.**

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The Budget Goals for FY 2008-2009 are:

- Provide a detailed cost analysis budget by school and by program.**
- Continue to work with members of the Budget Subcommittee, two School Committee and two Town Council**
- Meet the challenge of the Rhode Island Senate 3050 statute, 5.0% tax cap**
- Articulate to both the school community and community at large the specific expected shortfalls in local, State and Federal dollars and**

the impact on programs and personnel.

- Total budget increase of 3.23%**
 - o 3.1% teacher salary increase**
 - o 6.5% Blue Cross premium increase**
 - o 6+% Delta Dental premium increase**
 - o Bus rate increased by +4%**
 - o Regional Special Education increase of 15.33%**
 - o Teachers' Retirement increased by 1.82%**

Mrs. Spengler asked what the cost effectiveness of purchasing busses and hiring drivers would be if done through the Middletown Public Schools. Mr. Collins stated it would not be cost effective, due to the liability insurance, etc. He said there are possibilities of having bus companies employ their own monitors, which would be cost-effective.

As additional reductions may be needed, we will be looking at our sports programs. We will be meeting with sports groups to work out a plan in the event the reductions are needed. Mrs. Spengler suggested we contact legislators for changing the pay to play. Mr. Crowley said he didn't think anyone would touch this right now. He said at the last school board executive board meeting there was a conversation about the possibility of charging for transportation for sports programs and extracurricular activities. We currently spend 68K for sports transportation. We are also looking at the participation

rate for the freshman football program. If we cut the program, students could still play on the JV team.

There is a scheduled meeting for the beginning of March with the sports group to discuss players paying for transportation due to the budget shortfall.

Mrs. Kraeger repeated that State Aid was level funded and that Impact Aid is level funded as well.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Lee Fenton. To adjourn from the Budget Workshop at 6:43 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

February 14, 2008

7:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting

MICHAEL S. PINTO CONFERENCE ROOM

Members Present: Michael F. Crowley, Jr., Chairman

Liana F. Fenton, Vice-Chair

Theresa M. Spengler

Member Absent: William Coogan

Edward K. Draper

Also Present: Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Catherine McLeish, Business Manager

Edward Collins, Director of Facilities

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Michael Crowley. Administrative staff members present were Vincent Giuliano, Michelle Fonseca, Steven Ruscito, Stephen Ponte, and Gail Abromitis. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

- **TIEnet**

Mrs. Kraeger introduced Linda Savastano, Middletown Public Schools' Director of Technology. Mrs. Savastano presented an

overview of TIEnet highlighting the needs and its' uses: ease for teachers to access data for IEPs, PLPs, 504s, and assessment results; centralized curriculum management for the district, including instructional resources for teachers; and improved special education census management. The technology department will be providing staff development for the implementation.

Mrs. Kraeger thanked Mrs. Savastano for her leadership.

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PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

- **STUDENT AWARDS** – Student Awards were presented in the following categories:
 - o Newport Daily News Athlete of the Week
 - o Newport Daily News Student of the Week

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- **Gaudet Students' Presentation**
 - o Mr. Buffman's advisory group presented a fundraising idea – an overnight lock-in or Midnight Madness event at Gaudet on March

28th. All proceeds would be donated to UNICEF. The students would use the Gaudet gym, cafeteria, health room, and locker rooms for the event. Some ideas for the event would be to have the music group, Bloody Knuckles, movies, board games, etc. They would have a maximum of 150 students, with 7th and 8th grade teachers and parent volunteers for chaperones. A discipline policy will be set, with a second warning requiring parental pickup.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted items of information in the School Committee Package:

- Family Fun Night at the Planetarium was very successful. The evening was sold out!**
- A retirement party for Barbara Nash, town clerk, is on March 15th**
- Congratulations to Mr. Collins. He was the recipient of the RI Interlocal Trust Scholarship Award of \$2,000.**
- Lou Nelsen, substitute custodian, has retired after 14 years of service.**
- Mr. Crowley attended a School Board leadership conference in Washington, D.C.**

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for February 14, 2008.

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CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

1000. Approval of Minutes of January 17, 2008 School Committee Meeting

1100. Approval of Financial Report, dated January 31, 2008, in the amount of \$14,286,137.10

1200. Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 22, 2008, in the amount of \$215,233.73

1210. Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 25, 2008, in the amount of \$3,983.81

1220. Approval of Invoice Register, dated February 5, 2008, in the amount of \$743,225.23

1230. Approval of Invoice Register, dated February 8, 2008, in the amount of \$3,113.30

1300. Approval of Special Grants Register, dated January 22, 2008, in the amount of \$25,204.90

1310. Approval of Special Grants Register, dated February 5, 2008, in

the amount of \$42,003.73

1400. Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT

John H. Anthony Grade 8 Science Teacher

Deborah C. Kern Dean of Students

Linda G. Welch Grade 4 Teacher, Regional Special Education

RETURN FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE for 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR

Jeannine K. Magliocco Grade Four Teacher, Aquidneck School

RETURN TO FULL-TIME TEACHING POSITION for 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR

Maureen Sullivan Kindergarten, Forest Avenue School

**CHANGE IN MATERNITY LEAVE - ARTICLE XIV, C, OPTION #1
(NEA/Middletown)**

Erin Doorley Multi-Age Teacher, John F. Kennedy School

Change start date to January 30, 2008

Change return date to April 21, 2008

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ACTION ITEMS

DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATOR'S CONTRACT

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee extend the Director of Technology Administrator's contract through 2011.

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES MANAGEMENT'S CONTRACT

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee extend the Director of Facilities Management's contract through 2011.

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 07-08-04 and 07-08-05.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Capital Improvement Program.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

- **CURRICULUM –**

- **Mrs. Kraeger announced the Middletown Teacher of the Year Mrs. Janice O'Donnell, Technology Integration Specialist, at Gaudet School. She will be publicly honored at the March 20th School Committee meeting.**

- **Mrs. Savastano has provided TIEnet training at the high school and Forest Avenue school**

- **Forest Avenue School had a very successful SALT visit, with final report due out in about a month. The job was well done by Forest Avenue staff.**

- **High School test scores in NECAP will be out next week**

- **Teachers for Grades 1-8 are working on common assessments**

- **Literacy teachers are developing teaching strategies and tools**

- **Graduation date is set for Saturday at noon on June 14th**

- Miss Call and Miss Daughan polled 68 seniors. Of the group polled, 56 wanted Saturday or were indifferent, and 12 seniors wanted the date changed to Sunday.

Mr. Crowley clarified that the school committee doesn't set the graduation date, administration sets the date.

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- **FINANCIAL –**

- 43.45 % of the budget has been expended to date (approximately the exact percent at this point last year)
- Impact aid dollars will be available after the March conference
- Special Ed Transportation is being reviewed for the possibility of collaboration with Bristol/Warren, East Providence and Newport County

- **FACILITIES –**

- Utilities charts are enclosed in package, no serious heat issues
- The Town Council voted to fund the basketball court repairs. The bid opening is February 22nd. Work is planned to begin this spring. The project will be paid by the town.
- CIP- Education Plan 2009-2017 (final elementary school piece) still has a balance available to repair windows.
- Town officials are meeting to create a master recreation plan to identify outdoor facilities in town. They will be looking for strengths/weaknesses of areas and will break down the information

and provide a report.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Fenton attended a Governors K-16 Council meeting. A few highlights are:

- o an update on graduation requirements (eight schools needed to improve and are looking at intervention);**
- o academic and career interests;**
- o internships and career tech centers**

Mrs. Fenton said she will be attending a Newport Career Tech meeting in March and hopefully the costs would be resolved; she will follow-up with Senator Theresa Paiva-Weed. Mrs. Fenton also attended a meeting today at the RI Foundation and will hand out grant opportunities after the meeting. She will write a robotics grant for Middletown (Legos, Vex and larger robots).

Mrs. Spengler wanted to touch on a segment of the Department Of Education's dietary guidelines. There was coverage on the news regarding Splenda in diet foods. The report findings were that diet

foods are not working because individuals' sugar cravings are not satisfied – so people are eating more. The community needs to be educated.

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Mr. Crowley attended the National School Board Leadership Conference a few weeks ago and will distribute handouts.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 8:03 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk